



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



Home

Meetings

Members

Officers

Newsletter

E. Iowa DX Bulletin

Buy-Sell-Trade

DXCC Card Checking

About EIDXA

History

Constitution & Bylaws

DX Resources

The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 306, December 26, 2025

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

This bulletin is available via email subscription only. See

<http://www.arrl.org/bulletins> to subscribe. (The online archive is no longer updated.)

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

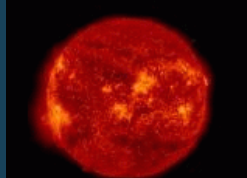
Dr. Tony Phillips' [SpaceWeather.com](#), used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



Solar-Terrestrial Data

27 Dec 2025 1816 GMT
SFI: 166 SN: 130
A-Index: 8
K-Index: 1
X-Ray: C2.6
304A: 152.3 @ SEM
Ptn Flx: 8
Elc Flx: 2330
Aurora: 3/n=1.99
Mag (Bz): -1.4
Solar Wind: 451.8
Geomag Field VR QUIET
Sig Noise Lvl S0-S1
Current Solar Image



<http://www.norbh.com>
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4962

DX News

3A, MONACO. Col, MMØNDX and Steve, MMØSAJ will be active again as **3A/MMØNDX** and **3A/MMØSAJ** from Monte Carlo, Monaco from **December 30th to January 3rd**. Their main focus will be on the low bands using SSB, FT8/FT4 and RTTY. QSL both calls via [EB7DX](#) and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1807 December 20, 2025] (1226-0109)

4J,4K, AZERBAIJAN. A group of operators will be QRV from Shahdagh National Park (POTA AZ-0006) as **4KØT** from **December 29th to 31st**, mostly on 17m. QSL via LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2490 December 24, 2025] (1226-0102)

4J,4K, AZERBAIJAN. Jan, DL4XT will be active holiday style as **4K/DL4XT** from Azerbaijan from **December 26th to January 3rd**. He will operate SSB, CW and FT8 on 40 and 20-10 meters. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#) and QRZ.

-[425DXN # 1806 December 13, 2025] (1226-0102)

4X, ISRAEL. A Christmas 2025 operation will be conducted from Israel on **December 25th-31st**. Four groups of operators capable of providing QSOs in FT8, SSB, CW and via satellite will be QRV as **4X25X**, **4X25M**, **4X25A** and **4X25S**. For more information, see: <https://www.iarc.org/xmas-2025/>. QSL via [4X6ZM](#), bureau or direct.

-[425DXN # 1807 December 20, 2025] (1219-0102)

5R, MADAGASCAR. Eric, F6ICX, is QRV as **5R8IC** from Sainte-Marie Island (AF-090) **until the end of December**. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, FT8, FT4, and Satellite QO-100. QSL to [F6ICX](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 49 December 4, 2025] (1205-0102)

6Y, JAMAICA. Lester, W8YCM, is QRV as both **W8YCM/6Y** and **6Y8LV** **until mid-January 2026**. Activity is holiday style on 17, 12, and 10 meters using SSB. QSL direct to [W8YCM](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 50 December 11, 2025] (1212-0116)

9A, CROATIA. Special event station **9A169TESLA** is QRV **until December 31st** to celebrate Nikola Tesla's birthday. QSL via operators' instructions.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 49 December 4, 2025] (1205-0102)

9Y, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO. Earl, WA3DX will be active as **9Y9DX** from Arouca, Trinidad (SA-011) on **December 17th-29th**. He will operate mainly FT8 and FT4 on 40-10 meters. QSOs will be uploaded to ClubLog. QSL via LoTW, or direct to [WA3DX](#).

-[425DXN # 1805 December 6, 2025] (1212-0102)

C5, THE GAMBIA. Andre, ON7YK, is QRV as **C5YK** from Kotu **until January 25th**. Activity is on 20 to 10 meters using SSB, RTTY, FT8, FT4, and some CW. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 49 December 4, 2025] (1205-0123)

CE9, ANTARCTICA. Oleg, ZS1ANF, has returned to Wichaway (WAP MNB-11) and operates as **ZS7ANF** on 17, 15, and 10m CW. QSL via [RK1PWA](#).

-[DXNL # 2489 December 17, 2025] (1219-0109)

CE9, ANTARCTICA. Alex, UG1A, operating as **RI1ANI**, is expected to leave Novolazarevskaya Station on December 1st, and head to Progress station. From **December 5th onwards**, he will take part in the traverse from Progress to Vostok Station, where he will stay for approximately 40 days. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or via [RN1ON](#).

-[425DXN # 1805 December 6, 2025] (1205-0102)

CN, MOROCCO. Members of the Association Royale des Radioamateurs du Maroc will be active as **CN35CAN** during the 35th edition of the Africa Cup of Nations, the biennial international competition for African football (soccer) teams. Morocco will host the tournament from **December 21st to January 18th**. QSL direct to [CN35CAN](#).

-[425DXN # 1806 December 13, 2025] (1219-0123)

CT, PORTUGAL. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Rede dos Emissores Portugueses (REP), Portugal's IARU member society, around fifty operators scattered all around the country will use three special call signs - **CS26REP**, **CR26REP** and **CR3REP** on **January 1st-7th**. Look for activity on various bands and modes, and via QO-100. Certificates and eQSLs will be available on <https://hamaward.cloud/awards>.

-[425DXN # 1807 December 20, 2025] (1226-0109)

D4, CAPE VERDE. Beni, HB9HNT, is QRV as **D4NT** **until January 1st**. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to [HB9HNT](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 51 December 18, 2025] (1219-0102)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of December 26, 2025:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. KH4	Midway Island
2. KH3	Johnston Island	12. VKØM	Macquarie Island
3. KH7K	Kure Island	13. EZ	Turkmenistan
4. CEØX	San Felix Islands	14. KP5	Desecheo Island
5. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	15. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
6. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	16. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
7. BV9P	Pratas Island	17. YK	Syria
8. YVØ	Aves Island	18. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
9. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	19. VKØH	Heard Island
10. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island	20. FT/T	Tromelin Island

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF December 26, 2025] (1226-0116)

EA, SPAIN. The radio club in Palencia uses the callsign **EG1SANTA** until the end of the year. QSL via [EC1R](#).

-[DXNL # 2489 December 17, 2025] (1219-0102)

EA, SPAIN. Celebrating Christmas and the New Year from the city of Vigo, **EG1NV** will be active from **December 2nd to January 12th**. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/EG1NV> for more information. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, and QRZ Logbook.

-[425DXN # 1804 November 29, 2025] (1128-0109)

F, FRANCE. Dominique, F4JMX is going to put the callsign **TM63SC** on the air from **December 17th to 31st**. It was used in previous years by F8DZU (Jean-Pierre), who became silent key earlier this year.

-[DXNL # 2489 December 17, 2025] (1219-0102)

FY, FRENCH GUIANA. Pierre-Jean, F4GPK will be active again as **TO2FY** from Korou, French Guiana from **December 22nd to January 15th**. Activity will be mostly on 20, 15, and 10 meters using SSB only. He does not do paper QSLs or ClubLog. QSL only via LoTW and eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1806 December 13, 2025] (1219-0116)

G, ENGLAND. Members of the Humber Fortress DX Amateur Radio Club operate as **GB26HNY** from **December 26th to January 18th**.

-[DXNL # 2490 December 24, 2025] (1226-0116)

HA, HUNGARY. The first official, regular radio broadcast in Hungary began on December 1, 1925, which is now celebrated as Hungarian Radio Day. To mark that centenary, the Hungarian Radio Amateur Society (MRASZ) and the Honfy Jozsef Radioclub (HA1KHJ) organize a commemorative activity to be held from **November 15th to December 31st** under nine special callsigns: **HG1ØØRADIO**, **HG1ØØYHRB**, **HG1ØØAN**, **HG1ØØEG**, **HG1ØØFO**, **HG1ØØIT**, **HG1ØØRC**, **HG1ØØSD** and **HG1ØØUD**. Look for activity on 160-10m CW, SSB & digital modes, and via QO-100. A certificate will be available: <https://mrasz.org/100-years-of-hungarian-broadcasting-award>.

-[425DXN # 1802 November 15, 2025] (1114-0102)

HB, SWITZERLAND. Club HB9IPA continues to celebrate their club's 70th anniversary with the special callsign **HB7ØIPA** until the end of 2025 on HF and via QO-100.

-[DXNL # 2487 December 3, 2025] (1205-0102)

HK, COLOMBIA and

HKØ, SAN ANDRES & PROVIDENCIA. Christoph, DF3TJ is active from Colombia as **HK4/DF3TJ** until sometime in January. "There will also be activations of **HKØ/DF3TJ** from San Andres (NA-033) and Providencia (NA-049) on short term notice", he says. QSL via [ON5JC](#).

-[425DXN # 1808 December 27, 2025] (1226-0116)

HS, THAILAND. Special event callsign **HS25SG** will be activated on **December 1st-30th** to celebrate the 33rd Southeast Asian Games and as part of the "SatFinder" educational campaign, which promotes space, satellite, and radio science to students and the general public through amateur radio activities. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/HS25SG> for more information. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW, and QRZ Logbook.

-[425DXN # 1804 November 29, 2025] (1128-0102)

I, ITALY. ARI section Gorizia remains active as **I13GONG** until December 29th.

-[DXNL # 2489 December 17, 2025] (1219-0102)

J3, GRENADA. Rikk, WE9G will be active as **J38WG** from Grenada (NA-024) on January 1st-16th. This will be a SO2R (Single Operator 2 Radios) activity on 160-6 meters, mostly FT8 with some CW and SSB. "I might also do some POTA", he says. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW, or via [WE9G](#).

-[425DXN # 1808 December 27, 2025] (1226-0116)

JA, JAPAN. Take, JI3DST will be active as **JS6RRR** from Miyako Island (AS-079) from December 11th until April 17th. He will operate SSB, CW and FT8 on 40-6m. Other callsigns to be used are **JI3DST/6**, **JJ5RBH/6**, **JI3DST/p** and **JJ5RBH/p**. QSOs will be uploaded to ClubLog and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1805 December 6, 2025] (1205-0102)

KH0, MARIANA IS. Ken, JO1VRK expects to be active as **KH0/AJ6VJ** from Saipan (OC-086), Mariana Islands from December 29th to January 3rd. He will be QRV on 40-10 meters CW and digital modes. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, and [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1807 December 20, 2025] (1226-0109)

KP5, DESECHEO I. The Vieques Island Amateur Radio Club (NP3VI) and the Manyana DX Foundation will sponsor the **KP5/NP3VI** DXpedition to Desecheo Island, now number 14 on the DXCC Top Twenty list.

Plans are to deploy two self-sustained remote deployable stations between January 12th and 14th. The DXpedition is expected to operate continually for 30 days.

(Full details will be published in the January 9th edition of the *Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin*. Stay tuned!)

-[425DXN # 1808 December 27, 2025] (1226-0109)

LZ, BULGARIA. Special callsigns **LZ2025ZONE** and **LZ2026EURO** celebrate Bulgaria's admission into the Eurozone and adoption of the Euro as of January 1st. Also look for **LZ1EURO** to be active on January 1st-6th. QSL LZ2025ZONE and LZ2026EURO via [LZ2VP](#) and LZ1EURO via [LZ3SCO](#).

-[425DXN # 1807 December 20, 2025] (1226-0109)

LZ, BULGARIA. The special event callsign **LZ1KOLED** will be active from December 24th to 29th. Then, from January 1st to 6th, the operators continue as **LZ1EURO** to mark Bulgaria's entry into the Euro currency zone.

-[DXNL # 2490 December 24, 2025] (1226-0109)

OA, PERU. The Peruvian Radio Club celebrates its 95th anniversary with the callsign **4T95O** during December. QRV on 40-10 meters, as well as on 6m, 2m and 70cm, CW, SSB, RTTY, FM, and FT8. For QSL information (including a downloadable eQSL) see: <https://www.oa4o.pe>

-[DXNL # 2486 November 26, 2025] (1128-0102)

OE, AUSTRIA. Special callsign **OE0YOTA** is going to take part in the December YOTA Month 2025 events.

-[DXNL # 2486 November 26, 2025] (1128-0102)

ON, BELGIUM. Commemorating the 81st anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, members of UBA Section Bruxelles-Est (ON5UB) will be active as **OR81NUTS** from December 13th to 31st. The suffix of the special callsign is General Anthony C. McAuliffe's famous single-word reply in response to a surrender ultimatum.

-[425DXN # 1805 December 6, 2025] (1205-0102)

OX, GREENLAND. Michael, **OX3MC**, plans to get on the air whenever time permits from December 29th to February 25th from Pituffik Space Base (NA-018). QRV on 80-10m, mostly on SSB. QSL via OZ QSL bureau.

-[DXNL # 2490 December 24, 2025] (1226-0227)

PA, NETHERLANDS. Special callsigns celebrating Christmas and the New Year from the Netherlands include:

PA25SANTA	Dec 1 - Jan 1	QSL via PA1AW
PA25XMAS	Dec 1-31	no QSL, certificate on QRZ
PD25STAR	Dec 1-31	no QSL, certificate on QRZ

PD26HNY Dec 1 - Jan 31 no QSL, certificate on QRZ
PF25XMAS Dec 1-31 QSL via [PC1K](#); certificate on QRZ
PH25XMAS Dec 6-28 no QSL, certificate on <https://award.pa3efr.nl>
PH26HNY Dec 28 - Jan 5 no QSL, certificate on <https://award.pa3efr.nl>
PI25XMAS Dec 1-31 no QSL, certificate on QRZ

More information can be found on <https://www.qrz.com/db/PD25XMAS>.

-[425DXN # 1804 November 29, 2025] (1128-0102)

PZ, SURINAME. Joe, OZØJ will be active as **PZ5OZ** from PZ5RA's rental shack at Lelydorp, Suriname from **December 21st to January 2nd**. He will operate CW, SSB, FT8 (F/H) and possibly RTTY on 160-6 meters. Note: Do NOT mail direct cards to OZØJ, as the Danish postal operator will discontinue letter delivery service on December 30. See <https://pz5oz.oz0j.dk> for more information. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), LoTW, and eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1805 December 6, 2025] (1219-0102)

SM, SWEDEN. Radio club SK3GK is QRV with special callsign **SM1ØØXF** until **December 31st** to mark the first radio broadcast 100 years ago from Gävle. QSL via bureau.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 49 December 4, 2025] (1205-0102)

SP, POLAND. The Dobrzycki Amateur Radio Club (SP3PDO) will use twelve special callsigns during 2026 to honor as many different Polish saints. The first callsign in the series, **SP1894MMK** (**January 1st-31st**), is for St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe (SP3RN), born on January 8, 1894, and killed at Auschwitz in 1941. It will be followed by **SP144ØSL** (**February**), **SP1Ø4ØSSZ** (**March**), **SP1865JML** (**April**), **SP192ØKW** (**May**), **SP1373JA** (**June**), **SP1183JO** (**July**), **SP19Ø5MFK** (**August**), **SP1373AB** (**September**), **SP155ØSK** (**October**), **SP1234KK** (**November**) and **SP1835JK** (**December**). See <https://radioawards.club/ses/155> for the certificates. QSL via [SP3PDO](#).

-[425DXN # 1807 December 20, 2025] (1226-0123)

SV, GREECE. Tom, OE4EIE operates as **SV/OE4EIE** from **December 21st until January 4th**.

-[DXNL # 2489 December 17, 2025] (1219-0109)

TA, TURKEY. Special event callsign **TC25YOTA**, staffed by youngsters, will be active **throughout December**. See also: <https://events.ham-yota.com>. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[DXNL # 2487 December 3, 2025] (1205-0102)

TG, GUATEMALA. Todd, AF4CZ, will be active holiday style as **TG9/AF4CZ** from Guatemala from **December 7th to January 5th**. He will operate mainly FT8/FT4 on 40-10 meters. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW, eQSL and ClubLog.

-[425DXN # 1804 November 29, 2025] (1205-0109)

TL, CENTRAL AFRICA. Joao, CR7BNW will be active as **TL8BNW** from Bangui, Central African Republic **for six months**. During his stay he will be QRV on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter SSB and FT8. He has already conducted some preliminary tests in preparation for his first activity, which is scheduled for **December 20th-25th**. QSL via LoTW, and QRZ.

-[425DXN # 1807 December 20, 2025] (1219-0123)

UA, EUROPEAN RUSSIA. Special callsigns **R2Ø26A**, **R2Ø26C**, **R2Ø26L**, **R2Ø26N**, **R2Ø26NY**, **R2Ø26S**, **R2Ø26X**, **UE26HNY** and **UE26NY** will be active from **December 29th to January 11th** for the annual "Russian New Year" radio marathon organized by the Miller DX Club (<https://mdxc.ru/>) and the Rostov Oblast branch of the Russian Amateur Radio Union (SSR). See <https://hamlog.online/club/mdxc> for the certificates. QSL via [RQ7L](#).

-[425DXN # 1806 December 13, 2025] (1226-0116)

VP5, TURKS & CAICOS. Mark, AA2MA will be QRV as **VP5/AA2MA** from Caicos Island (NA-002) **during December**. Activity will be on his free time on 40, 20, and 10 meters using CW or FT8. QSL via [AA2MA](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 51 December 18, 2025] (1219-0102)

VP8/H,LU,CE9,HFØ,4K1, SOUTH SHETLAND IS. Ivo, LZ1AAW is heading to the Bulgarian Antarctic Base St. Kliment Ohridski on Livingston Island (AN-010). He plans to be QRV as **LZØA** in his spare time from approximately **December 27th to February 16th**. He will operate SSB and FT8/FT4 on 20

meters and possibly other bands. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW after the end of the activity. QSL via [LZ2UU](#).

-[425DXN # 1807 December 20, 2025] (1226-0213)

VU, INDIA. Bernhard, DL2GAC, is on the air as **VU2BMS** until mid-January.

-[DXNL # 2490 December 24, 2025] (1226-0116)

XF4, REVILLAGIGEDO. Following his brief October visit to Socorro Island, Revillagigedo, Mark (XE1B) returns to activate **XF4B** for a Christmas holiday operation. Accompanied by Guillermo (XE1IMO), he was scheduled to arrive on **December 23rd**, with the activation running **through December 31st**. The team is deploying two radios, one linear amplifier, and four antennas, allowing for simultaneous SSB and FT8 operations on 80-6 meters. All FT8 contacts (excluding 60m) will use Superfox mode with call validation to prevent pirate stations. Efforts are ongoing to prepare for a more extensive activation planned for 2026. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW as OQRS requests are processed. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) only.

-[425DXN # 1808 December 27, 2025] (1226-0103)

XU, CAMBODIA. Tom, DL7BO, will be QRV as **XU7GNY** from **December 22nd to January 18th**.

Activity will be on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8, and concentrating on the lower bands. QSL direct via [DJ4WK](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 51 December 18, 2025] (1219-0123)

YO, ROMANIA. Members of the YO3KRM Radioclub will run a Christmas Special Event on December 5th-31st, with three special callsigns: **YOØHOHO**, **YOØXMAS**, and **YRØUDOLPH**. QSL via [YO3GND](#). Certificates will be available, see [YOØHOHO](#) for the details.

-[425DXN # 1804 November 29, 2025] (1205-0102)

YU, SERBIA. Special call signs **YT25YOTA** and **YU25YOTA** are active **throughout December** in celebration of IARU Region 1 Young Radio Operators Month. QSL via operators' instructions.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 51 December 18, 2025] (1219-0102)

Z8, SOUTH SUDAN. Diya, YI1DZ, will be QRV as **Z81D** from Juba from **December 14th to March 10th**. Activity will be in his spare time. QSL to [YI1DZ](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 50 December 11, 2025] (1212-0116)

ZA, ALBANIA. Pete, ZL4TE, signs **ZA/ZL4TE** from Albania from **December 28th to 30th**. After that he travels on to Austria, Germany, Hungary, England but has not decided yet about getting on the air.

-[DXNL # 2488 December 10, 2025] (1226-0102)

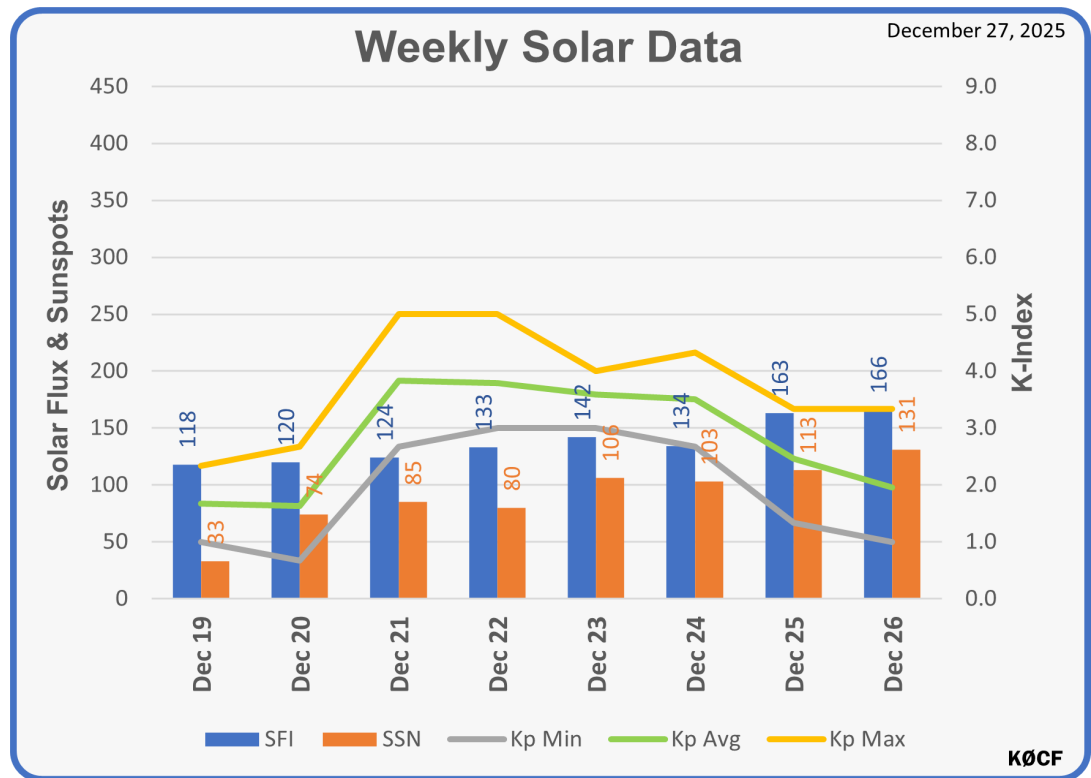
ZA, ALBANIA. Tom, OE4EIE operates as **ZA/OE4EIE** on **December 19th and 20th**, and again from **January 4th to 6th**. QSL to [OE4EIE](#).

-[DXNL # 2489 December 17, 2025] (1219-0109)

ZL, NEW ZEALAND. Special callsign **ZL6ØPAH** will be used by Phil, ZL3PAH from **November 23rd to February 22, 2026**, to celebrate his diamond jubilee in amateur radio. He will operate CW, RTTY, and "maybe a little SSB too" on 80-10 meters. QSL via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1802 November 15, 2025] (1121-0220)

Propagation (Updated daily)



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

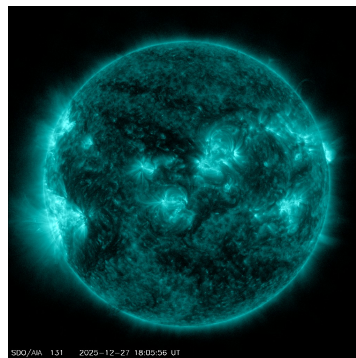
The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Friday, December 19th through yesterday, December 26th.

The average solar flux was 140, up 22 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 166 on Friday, December 26th, following a low of 118 on December 19th.

The average sunspot count was 99, up 28 from last week, peaking at 131 on Friday, December 26th after a weekly low of 33 on December 19th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 3.7 with a maximum of 5.0 on Monday, December 22nd, indicating a minor geomagnetic storm. Yesterday's K-index maximum was 3.3 with generally quiet conditions.

Solar flare activity since December 20th has been low with 3 major flares, the largest of which was an M 5.1 event on Saturday, December 27th.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Saturday, December 20th through 1504 UTC, December 27th.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Dec 27	0150	M 5.1
2	Dec 21	1827	M 1.3
3	Dec 20	0753	M 1.0

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Dec 27	45%	5%	170
Dec 28	45%	5%	175
Dec 29	45%	5%	170

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on December 22, 2025).

Date	Flux	Kp
Dec 27	155	2
Dec 28	155	2
Dec 29	160	3
Dec 30	170	6

Date	Flux	Kp
Dec 31	170	5
Jan 1	165	4
Jan 2	160	4
Jan 3	160	3

Date	Flux	Kp
Jan 4	160	2
Jan 5	160	2
Jan 6	160	2
Jan 7	140	2

M-Class Solar Flare

This morning (Dec. 27th @ 0150 UTC), Earth-orbiting satellites recorded a strong M5-class solar flare: [image](#). It came from a developing active region near new sunspot 4323. This region near the sun's eastern limb seems poised for significant sunspot development. If so, the flare could herald more explosions to come.

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Global D Region Absorption

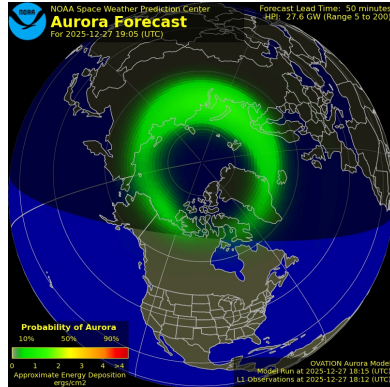
Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:



The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio

propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by "back-scatter" and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of aurora versus time:



Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.

Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.com/>

<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!

(Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources.)

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	Rules
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	Rules
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	Rules

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
RAC Winter Contest	Dec 27	0000Z	Dec 27	2359Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Dec 27	1500Z	Dec 28	1500Z	Rules
RAEM Contest	Dec 28	0000Z	Dec 28	1159Z	Rules
ARRL Kids Day	Jan 3	1800Z	Jan 3	2359Z	Rules
ARRL RTTY Roundup	Jan 3	1800Z	Jan 4	2400Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, CW	Jan 10	1800Z	Jan 11	0600Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, SSB	Jan 17	1800Z	Jan 18	0600Z	Rules
ARRL January VHF Contest	Jan 17	1900Z	Jan 19	0359Z	Rules
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	Jan 23	2200Z	Jan 25	2159Z	Rules
REF Contest, CW	Jan 24	0600Z	Jan 25	1800Z	Rules
Vermont QSO Party	Feb 7	0000Z	Feb 8	2400Z	Rules
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	Feb 7	0001Z	Feb 8	2359Z	Rules
Mexico RTTY International Contest	Feb 7	1200Z	Feb 8	2359Z	Rules
Minnesota QSO Party	Feb 7	1400Z	Feb 7	2400Z	Rules
British Columbia QSO Party	Feb 7	1600Z	Feb 8	2400Z	Rules
North American Sprint, CW	Feb 8	0000Z	Feb 8	0359Z	Rules
ARRL School Club Roundup	Feb 9	1300Z	Feb 13	2359Z	Rules
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	Feb 14	0000Z	Feb 15	2400Z	Rules
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	Feb 20	2200Z	Feb 22	2159Z	Rules
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	Feb 21	0000Z	Feb 22	2400Z	Rules

REF Contest, SSB	Feb 21	0600Z	Feb 22	1800Z	Rules
South Carolina QSO Party	Feb 21	1500Z	Feb 22	0159Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, RTTY	Feb 28	1800Z	Mar 1	0600Z	Rules
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	Mar 7	0000Z	Mar 8	2400Z	Rules
Oklahoma QSO Party	Mar 14	1400Z	Mar 15	2100Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Mar 14	1500Z	Mar 15	1500Z	Rules
Idaho QSO Party	Mar 14	1900Z	Mar 15	1900Z	Rules
North American Sprint, RTTY	Mar 15	0000Z	Mar 15	0359Z	Rules
Wisconsin QSO Party	Mar 15	1800Z	Mar 16	0100Z	Rules
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	Mar 21	0200Z	Mar 23	0200Z	Rules
Russian DX Contest	Mar 21	1200Z	Mar 22	1200Z	Rules
Virginia QSO Party	Mar 21	1400Z	Mar 22	2400Z	Rules
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	Mar 28	0000Z	Mar 29	2400Z	Rules

(Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#))